

NEW YORK TIMES

MAR 15 1964

Russian Calls A-11 As Easy a Target To Hit as the U-2

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, March 14--The United States' 2,000-mile-an-hour A-11 Jet plane could be shot down just as easily as its predecessor, the U-2, was, a Soviet air marshal declared today.

The assertion by Marshal Vladimir Aleksandrovich Sudets, commander in chief of Soviet anti-aircraft defenses, was made in an interview published by Izvestia, the Government newspaper.

The marshal said statements in the American press that Soviet anti-aircraft defenses would find it difficult or even impossible to reach the A-11 were "profound errors."

Planes of this type are "perfectly attainable targets" for the modern weapons operated by his command, the marshal said.

The existence of the A-11, an experimental plane that can reportedly fly at an altitude of more than 70,000 feet, was disclosed by President Johnson two weeks ago.

Marshal Sudets also made a reference to reports in the American press that the A-11 had made reconnaissance flights over the territory of one or several Communist states. He took cognizance of United States Government denials of these reports.

However, the marshal said that the writers of the articles should be reminded of the fate of the "U-2 spy plane piloted by [Francis Gary] Powers," which was shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960.

There is no doubt that if such dangerous experiments are repeated, he said, the new planes will meet the same fate as the U-2.

The A-11 is believed to be a vastly improved version of the U-2.